



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

AUG 28 2000

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter dated July 24, 2000, regarding the Red Penn Landfill Site in Pewee Valley, Kentucky. I am pleased to provide this response to your inquiry about the options for addressing the issues at the site.

The Red Penn Landfill was a permitted household waste disposal facility which operated from 1954 to 1986, and accepted unauthorized industrial waste. The abandoned landfill was declared a federal Superfund site in 1989, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). EPA conducted a remedial investigation of the site and concluded in 1993, that the facility did not pose sufficient human health or environmental risk to warrant a federal Superfund cleanup action. Nevertheless, the landfill required proper closure to control site runoff and for improved general conditions. Consequently, EPA advised the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection (KDEP) to work directly with the responsible parties on addressing the problem. In 1994, KDEP began site clean-up negotiations with the responsible parties. The negotiations resulted in an agreed order requiring Ford Motor Company, Waste Management of Kentucky, Red Penn Sanitation Company, the former owners/operators of the landfill (John Redmon, Guy Redmon and John Guelda) and the Atlantic Richfield Company to clean the site.

The agreed order requires the principal responsible parties to construct an engineered impermeable protective cap over the entire extent of the landfill. The cap will consist of a geosynthetic clay liner, a drainage net, and an eighteen inch soil cover with approved vegetation to control surface water runoff and prevent infiltration of water. It is designed to eliminate the potential for continued migration of contaminants from the landfill into the environment. Installation of the cap over the landfill began recently and is progressing satisfactorily. The work is expected to be completed by the end of October 2000.

Under the agreed order, the responsible parties will provide the long term monitoring and maintenance of the protective cover. In addition, they are required to sample surface water and groundwater quarterly to ensure that the cap effectively prevents unacceptable migration of contaminants. If the results of these activities indicate that the implemented remedy is not effective, further remedial action will be required by KDEP.